



KENOSHA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT CENTER

3600 - 52ND STREET • KENOSHA, WISCONSIN 53144-2697 • PHONE 262-653-6300

www.kusd.edu

As part of the public hearing held on June 15th 2004, Kenosha Unified School District provides the following comments to the Governor's Task Force on Energy Efficiency and Renewables on our support for the Focus on Energy Program.

1) One of the benefits of the Focus on Energy program is that it allows for a more balanced distribution of funds to organizations across the State. When we were interacting with utilities, it was much more of a situation where relationships between the organizations or individuals within the organizations could and would affect the distribution of rebate dollars or other incentives. I don't think it was an intentional thing, but that the utility folks had funds to distribute in the form of rebates, and they would go to the same people (in fact our district was one of them) each year knowing that the organization would be doing some form of energy savings project and that rebate dollars would be spent. Focus has done a great job of getting the word out on the programs, which has resulted in more organizations taking advantage of the incentive programs.

2) We used the Focus rebates in our district to help spark an energy program where by the energy savings from one years projects are used to fund subsequent energy saving projects in future years. The rebates which totaled about \$15,000 were less than 20% of the overall cost of the projects but they helped speed up the payback which benefited us in two ways, the first in getting approval from the School Board, and the second in that a quicker payback means quicker funding of additional projects.

3) Kenosha Unified has been involved in the development of a Facilities Manager Certification program with the Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials. Focus on Energy has been active in the development and delivery of training to the people responsible for the maintenance and construction of the State's K-12 schools. This training is helping educate facilities personnel in schools, especially those in small school districts on important maintenance and energy savings related issues.

4) With energy rates on the rise, it is more important that ever for Wisconsin School Districts to make energy efficiency a priority. Focus on Energy has the ability to assist School Districts in planning and implementing Energy Efficiency projects and programs. It is important that the worthwhile activities of Focus on Energy continue to be funded at an appropriate level to continue providing energy efficiency incentives throughout the state.

Sincerely,

John Allen
Distribution and Utilities Manager
Kenosha Unified School District
Kenosha, Wisconsin 53144
1-262-653-5998

Comments for Governor's Task Force on Energy Hearing

I have a strong interest in promoting the greater use of renewable energy, particularly Wind Energy. As I talk to people in different parts of our state I'm surprised and concerned by misconceptions that many people hold about this emerging technology. This group of people are sometimes seen at public hearings opposing new wind energy installations. They speak out in their communities and add to the public confusion that can block the expansion of renewable energy systems. Their strong feelings come from different sources. I feel that some of their opposition comes from not understanding wind energy basics and installations.

I propose that some Focus on Energy funding be used for grass roots public education on the basics and realities of wind energy. Many people are not knowledgeable or motivated enough to seek out information on wind energy from established sources. This information must be taken to them where they can be conveniently reached. This can be done by taking an education program to people where they can be reached. This includes existing community groups such as schools, churches, environmental groups, government groups, and local service clubs such as Rotary and Kiwanis.

We need to reach these people within our state and give them the information they need to become part of the solution, not part of the problem. As part of an information program, we would encourage people to help promote wind power by: sharing their concern and insight with their friends and neighbors; joining renewable energy groups; and signing up for "Green Power" programs through their local utility.

John Bahr

From: David Bradley

I am planning to attend the Energy Task Force meeting on Tuesday June 15 at the State Capitol. Our firm has benefitted from the Public Benefits program, specifically through Wisconsin Focus on Energy. We are a three person engineering consulting company and historically 90 - 95% of our clients have been out of state or out of country. WI Focus on Energy Research and Development funding has allowed us to work on two significant in state projects over the past year. The energy efficiency and conservation benefits from those projects directly benefit the state financially by reducing the need for new power generation capacity, by moving innovation into building energy code, and by permitting home owners to assess the potential benefits of renewable energy technologies. Restoration of the funding will allow us to continue working on such projects.

Thank you for your attention

N9W27353 Jacquelyn Dr.
Waukesha, WI 53188
June 15, 2004

To: Governor Doyle's Task Force On
Energy Efficiency and Renewables

I appreciate the opportunity you have provided for public input.

Wisconsin has been stuck at the study and rhetoric stage of dealing with energy usage in Wisconsin. Focus on Energy was a beginning, but this program needs political commitment. Better and more effective ways will evolve to improved energy efficiency and develop renewable energy, but we need a long term commitment and strategy. The members of this Task Force are in a position to provide the required leadership.

The State of Wisconsin has Energy Priority legislation on the books. But, you wouldn't know it. If one reviews the details of recent power plant expansion proposals, it is clear efficiency and renewables are only given marginal consideration. It is my understanding that the legislation has been construed to require that efficiencies and renewables replace the total proposed fossil fuel plant in order to be considered. The PSC studies and utility plant applications say that more studies are required to define energy savings and acknowledge the utility applications to be incomplete in this area. The recent PSCW Strategic Energy Assessment Energy 2010 states, "It is not possible to determine if past and projected energy efficiency efforts are adequate. ... The most recent potential study was completed in 1994. There have been considerable changes to the energy efficiency infrastructure since that time". The Energy 2010 looks to this Task Force for "ideas for restoring Wisconsin leadership in conservation in renewable energy." I join in that hope. You may be the only hope on the horizon.

As a retired Electrical Engineer, I have experience in energy efficiency that causes me to recognize the opportunity that we pass up because we haven't been able to get our energy leadership act together. My church has a program to replace fluorescent lighting ballasts that yield a 25% efficiency improvement. Orion Lighting makes a business of lighting replacement in the industrial market with noteworthy efficiency improvement. Then, why can't the commercial and retail stores, that have a lot of long usage hours of lighting, commit to a similar investment. My observation is that businesses have a very short-term perspective. Focus on Energy apparently assesses this efficiency market to have a good enough return on investment that they should need an incentive. There must be something wrong with this assessment because this large energy saving potential goes unrealized. The free market by itself is not serving Wisconsin's best interest. We need to consider putting capital into lighting equipment rather than additional power plants. We need innovative, visionary thinking.

If the capital that is authorized for power plant equipment and the money that will be spent on fossil fuel procurement, were instead channeled into enough of an incentive to get the Farm and Fleet stores and the 7-eleven stores and Wallgreens and all the other well lit commercial stores to

upgrade their lighting, we, Wisconsin, would be better off. That is, jobs today, lower cost electric power into the future, lower customer service/product costs into the future, less fossil fuel generated pollution and more fossil fuel available for the future. Energy efficiency is Wisconsin's locally generated power. We need visionary thinking.

The Task Force proposals on renewable energy are forward thinking. It support what you have proposed and urge you not to waver.

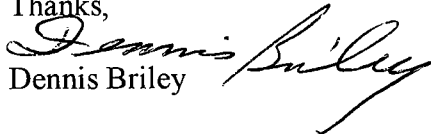
Wind power in Wisconsin is now an economically competitive electric power source. It is now Wind Harvest Time in Wisconsin. But to harvest this locally grown, clean power will require a mind set change. Inertia keeps us doing what we've always done. Developing Wisconsin wind power is a public policy opportunity. We need your visionary thinking.

In some circles being an environmentalist carries a negative connotation. I heard a college professor relay the story of asking how many of his class would identify themselves as environmentalists. Only one person raised his or her hand. Then later in the hour he asked how many cared about nature and the future of the earth. Virtually everyone raised his or her hand. I read a survey not too long ago that reported that 19% of the population considered themselves as active participants in the environmental movement, whereas an additional 51% considered themselves sympathetic, but not active. Is this possibly representative of your constituents? My antenna tell me that a number of Wisconsinites who may differ on many issues have a high potential for coming together on issues related to taking better care of our earth home. The vision is awaiting for someone to connect the dots. This taskforce has, I believe, the opportunity for doing just that.

As I reach the declining years of my life, I have a sadness that we've not done more to leave the succeeding generation with a better energy system legacy. I guess I didn't start working on this early enough. I didn't help my children and their friends understand that we can't continue using up the world's resources at the rate we are. I thought someone else would develop energy efficiency improvement work. In the 70s Wisconsin innovators were doing exciting development work with wind power. But we lost that initiative. Europe picked up the vision and provided the technological developments that now can bring wind power to us. Wind power development offer us land use royalty, construction, investment as well as manufacturing opportunities. Let us not drop the ball.

We can still renew the windpower vision of harvesting Wisconsin's wind as well as empowering an ethic of wise energy use. Don't miss the opportunity for your children's future that my generation and I appear to have passed over.

Thanks,


Dennis Briley



Union of Concerned Scientists

Citizens and Scientists for Environmental Solutions

Hello and Good morning. My name is Chris Deisinger, I am a consultant to the Union of Concerned Scientists and their representative today.

I want to thank the Governor's Task Force on Energy Efficiency and Renewables for the hard work they have put in over the past several months reviewing the state's energy policy and shaping recommendations for the future. Many good and forward looking ideas are taking shape in your deliberations and I urge the Governor, the legislature and the agencies of this state to take them seriously and seize this chance to make our state more energy independent, cleaner and more economically stronger.

For example, we have a chance to further incent the development of new renewable resources in Wisconsin through the Renewable Portfolio Standard. The standard now in place in Wisconsin calls for a renewable content of 2.2% by 2015. We can and should do much better. The Union of Concerned Scientists concluded, in a study conducted for the Wisconsin Division of Energy last year, that a target of 10% renewable content by the year 2013 was both feasible and economical. Under this scenario, a typical household in the state would pay about 8 cents more per month if all hydropower were included as eligible. In exchange for this modest increase in electric bills perhaps 1,700 MW of new wind, biomass and manure digester resources would be developed, much of them in Wisconsin. These new, home grown resources will also act as a hedge against the volatility and the ever increasing cost of fossil fuel resources such as coal and natural gas.

We would urge that the Task Force recommend that the RPS be increased at a rate of at least .75% per year over current amounts in order to reach a target of 10% by 2012, especially if all hydropower resources are included as eligible, in order to develop new, truly renewable resources in Wisconsin.

We would also urge that care be taken in program design so that there is no double-counting of renewable resources used for any program in other states for the Wisconsin RPS and that the lifetime of any credits used by utilities to meet the RPS be restricted.

The Task Force is also considering other issues. Of great significance is the future of the Wisconsin Public Benefits framework that currently provides energy efficiency and customer-sided renewable programs to most of the state. We would urge that the state move to ensure that these funds, collected from the ratepayers, are adequate to provide for these ever more necessary programs and are protected from diversion and from use for political purposes.

Thank you,
Chris Deisinger
113 Koster St.
Madison, WI 53713
608-283-4261



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2830 W. Stark – Milwaukee, WI 53209

Phone: 877-377-0011

Fax: 877-280-0022

June 14, 2004

Focus on Energy
Attn: Mr. Jack Daniels
312 N. Franklin Street
Port Washington, WI 53074

Dear Jack,

I wanted to take a moment to share my thoughts on the Multifamily Program with you.

I have been in the heating contracting business for 20 years. I have always encouraged customer's to choose high efficiency equipment in order to save them energy costs down the road. Unfortunately, most multifamily building owners are more concerned with the initial cost of the systems, than they are with energy savings in the years to follow.

Focus on Energy's Multifamily Program has been instrumental in getting energy efficient equipment the recognition it deserves. Now, these same landlords see the bigger picture and install more energy efficient heating systems because of the incentives your program offers.

To date, we have collaborated with you on approximately 100 projects with savings of 250,000 therms, without the incentive program, many of these jobs would not have happened.

I look forward to working with you in the future on this program. The Focus on Energy Multifamily Program shows results, and I hope it continues far into the future.

Sincerely,

Howard Endres
President/Owner



June 15, 2004

Governor's Task Force on Energy Efficiency
& Renewable Energy
Room 411 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI

Dear Governor's Task Force:

The Midwest Food Processors Association represents approximately 19 food processors 190 associate members with operations in Minnesota, Illinois and Wisconsin. Energy reliability, efficiency and sustainability are crucial for the operations of our members. We have estimated that food processing energy costs range from 15 to 25 % of the total expenses at processing facilities and our members are some of the larger users of energy to process and maintain food safety. We utilize boilers, pumps, motors, refrigeration and freezing to produce quality food items safely. The three components we see as necessary for reliability are: 1) additional generation, 2) transmission infrastructure increases, and 3) energy conservation and efficiency. We support the use of the public benefit fees our members have been paying to fund programs like Focus On Energy in our continued efforts to save energy costs and increase efficiency. Additionally, the fees should be utilized as they were intended to be used and not diverted to the state general funds.

Our Board of Directors recently authorized the creation of an energy efficiency task force to help the efforts of our members to reduce energy use and costs. Our Board has recognized that food processors must continually work to reduce energy use and be more efficient in how food products are processed. We will need the help and support of programs like Focus on Energy if we are to be successful.

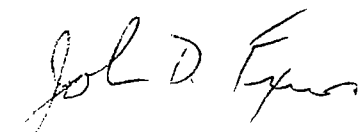
MWFPA has already worked extensively with Focus On Energy in providing seminars for our members and leading discussions which can help reduce energy use and increase efficiency. Focus On Energy has been a ready and willing participant in finding the right speakers and consultants to deal with industry issues. Members in other states have expressed their opinions that they would certainly welcome a program like Wisconsin already has in place with Focus On Energy.

Utilizing public benefit money the way it was originally set up is crucial for energy users in Wisconsin. Our industry has been the victim of these user fee diversions in the past and it is disappointing to see them continue into the future. When a funding source is identified and a program developed to help reach the goals of the state, it is only reasonable to expect that the fees paid by users will be utilized accordingly. With each new diversion of money, the creation of new ideas is stifled as fee payers become less inclined to believe that the money will be utilized as designed. The credibility of fee programs needs to be restored and preventing further diversion of energy use fees will be a step in the right direction.

EXPERTISE AND INFLUENCE TO POWER YOUR FOOD BUSINESS

Thank you very much for the opportunity to express our concerns on this very important matter. We wish you the best of luck on creating the report and look forward to reviewing it. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Exner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent part.

John D. Exner, CAE
MWFPA President/Legal Counsel



Voith Paper

Voith Paper Inc.
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P.O. Box 2337
Appleton, WI 54912-2337 USA
Telephone: (920) 731-7724
Fax: (920) 731-0240
www.voithpaper.com

June 11, 2004

Governor's Task Force on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Public Hearing – June 15, 2004

Benefits of the Focus on Energy Program to Wisconsin's Paper Industry

Voith Paper, a supplier of papermaking equipment located in Appleton, has a long history of service to the Paper Industry in Wisconsin. We offer energy saving solutions that will help our paper mills maintain productivity and reduce costs in an extremely competitive, global industry.

The Wisconsin Focus on Energy (FOE) Program is actively helping to make the Paper Industry in Wisconsin aware of Voith Paper's energy saving products. Earlier this month, the Program uncovered a valuable opportunity for our product at a local tissue mill. Implementation of this product will decrease the applied power in the mill's affected process by over 20%. As part of the project, FOE Program Representatives will act as an independent third party, developing a case study that will illustrate actual power savings to the mill's process before and after the installation of the product.

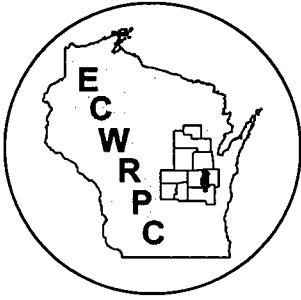
The project case study, besides having great value to the mill, would provide critical support for future applications of the product throughout the identified 65 processes in 26 Wisconsin mills that would benefit from Voith Paper's cost saving product.

Wisconsin's Focus on Energy Program is important to Voith Paper and to our Paper Industry Customers. Their continued efforts at identifying opportunities for energy efficient solutions will help to preserve Wisconsin's status as the #1 papermaking state in the nation.

Bill Fineran
Manager, Business Development

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Fiber Systems Division
2200 N. Roemer Road
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*An Economic Development District and Metropolitan Planning Organization
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June 15, 2004

Governor's Task Force on Energy Efficiency & Renewables
c/o Lee Cullen, Chair
122 West Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Task Force Members:

Thank you for providing the opportunity to present my comments regarding concerns on the topic of wind energy as they relate to siting issues. My name is Eric Fowle. I am the Principal Environmental Planner for the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, representing 10 counties, and; in this case, particularly Shawano and Calumet Counties with which I've been working with for the past year on wind energy facility issues.

I'd like to frame my remarks by referring to nine specific provisions that currently exist in State law:

1. Wis. Stats. 1.12 [1997-98] which establishes a goal of the state to encourage the construction of renewable energy resources (including wind energy) in Wisconsin
2. Wis. Stats. 196.377(2)(b) [1997-98], known as Wisconsin Act 204 that mandated the construction of electric generating capacity powered by renewable resources. This required utilities to build or contract for an aggregate total of 50MW within Wisconsin;
3. Wis. Stats. 196.378 which requires Wisconsin utilities to procure up to 2.2% of their energy supply from renewable resources by 2011;
4. Wis. Stats. 66.0401 [1997-98] which limits the ability of communities to prohibit or curtail the development of wind energy systems;
5. Wis. Stats. 66.0403 which grants an applicant the right to protect wind access and lays out a process for local jurisdictions to issue permits – no decision process here, a community must grant the permit!
6. Wis. Stats. 70.111(18) which grants wind turbines an exemption from property taxes (although impact fees may be charged);
7. Wisconsin Act 31 which authorizes payment amounts to communities for exempted wholesale power generators after January 1, 2004;
8. Wis. Stats. 196.491 [1997-98] under which generation facilities of less than 100MW are not required to obtain a certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (a process requiring Environmental Assessments or Impact Statement), and;
9. Even a little known law, Wis. Stats 59.694(7)(d) referring to the powers of a county zoning board of adjustment which encourages the granting of special exceptions and variances for wind energy facilities.

What do all of the separate pieces of language have in common? They obviously serve to promote the wind energy industry and were amended into existing law in a piecemeal fashion over a multi-year period. These laws serve to ease the siting, construction, use, and maintenance of renewable energy resources – something desperately needed in this country – and something that few people, including myself, would argue against, yet here I am today. These simple pieces of language try to do the 'right thing', but in my opinion, they go about it in the wrong way.

At the local level, these regulatory provisions only serve to promote controversy and breed mistrust, as wind turbines have now become a land use which essentially cannot be denied or prohibited by local governments. The mistrust is directed at both the industry for appearing to be 'secretive', as well as toward government which appears to be promoting them with no regard for other costs to society. These societal costs are most evident in the inability to consider impacts to natural and scenic resources – two of this state's most well-known environmental values, whose preservation has served it well in the past. Just as mega-farms, cellular communications towers, bio-solids spreading, and mining have been labeled as LULU's – locally undesirable land uses, so too has one of the cleanest energy solutions that exists in the world today. Just look at the newspaper headlines and it is plain to see why (see attachments). The need for planning and the ability to regulate these facilities is evident as past and current project proposals have caused heated debates in many places within our region such as along the Niagara Escarpment in Calumet County; the Campbellsport drumlins area of the Ice Age National Reserve in Fond du Lac County, and; near the Horicon Marsh and Neda Mine in the Town of Herman – one of the largest freshwater marsh and bird nesting areas in the country, and one of the largest bat hibernaculums in the Midwest, respectively.

The most disturbing of these laws is Wis Stats. 66.0401 which exclusively allows a community to make decisions on such projects based on health, safety, and – that's it. The term 'welfare' which typically follows this regulatory cliché, is conveniently missing. Well, what sorts of 'unimportant things' are included in this category of 'welfare'?

1. Property value impacts – regarded by many as a basic tenet of land use planning, this is of concern to a majority of the region's population;
2. Scenic or aesthetic beauty – of great concern to many, but not defined very well either as it is very subjective. Several efforts are currently underway at the State level to develop and support this concept, such as the newly formed Wisconsin Chapter of Scenic America and the WDNR's Land Legacy Initiative. It is well-known that many of the state's scenic resources are tied directly to local, regional, and state tourism economies;
3. Wildlife impacts – this includes migratory and resident bird and bat mortality impacts, but extends into the realm of economics through hunting and recreation;
4. Quality of Life – a combination of the above elements, yet it may include others;

Pretty important things if you ask me. Yet, ironically, the voices of our citizens, as well as many of our local, county, state, and federal agencies, are virtually silenced by (ironically) the one of the quietest, yet most visually prominent industries in the state.

To date no comprehensive look has been taken at the land use issues associated with wind energy facilities. Representing Shawano and Calumet Counties as well as the other 'voiceless' citizens and agencies of our state, I ask this Task Force to consider the critical point at which this industry – this energy solution – lies. We ask that sensibility prevail and that communities be given the right to plan proactively for such facilities – the same right and authority that is being promoted through smart growth – both a major effort and dollar investment in Wisconsin. The model wind turbine ordinance is a great starting point, however; its adoption by communities may be nothing more than a meaningless effort to shield them from getting sued. It seems pretty obvious that we have learned from other land use issues that all things cannot simply go wherever they want – they should be located where best suited and only after the input of citizens is heard. This basic concept of planning before promoting needs to be instilled in the State's efforts to foster sustainability while balancing the land use issues that exist. In response, we ask that the Task Force seriously consider the following items:

1. Restore the ability for communities and counties to plan and regulate, on their terms, where such facilities will be located, including the ability to 'opt out' of accepting any such facilities if justifiable natural or scenic resource issues exist. Counties and communities should have the ability to determine which lands are most suitable in order to protect the natural and scenic jewels that still remain.
2. Statutory changes which replace the 100+ MW threshold for obtaining a certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity with one that better reflects the size of projects being built in the State. This would require the necessary Environmental Impact Assessments and should include provisions for pre-siting studies and alternative site analysis;
3. Improved statewide coordination and communication on wind energy siting issues and projects, including better procedures for industry to inform communities and residents when a project is proposed.

In the interim, East Central is taking the lead to address these siting issues within the context of its advisory 'smart growth' comprehensive plan. As an area with high potential for wind energy, we feel that it makes sense to narrow the statewide scope of existing requirements and we are developing a set of region-based opportunity/constraint maps, as well as objectives and policies, to offer guidance on some of these siting concerns. Ultimately, to achieve the vision that is established in our region, changes to the way the state oversees this industry will need to be considered.

Please do not misconstrue these comments as being 'anti-wind power', as the Commission and its counties fully support the development of renewable energy sources. Also, these comments are not meant as criticism of the wind industry, as they have only been playing by the rulebook that was written for them. We look forward to continuing the discussions and debates on these matters with the industry, as well as all of those involved, so that we can achieve a sensible balance between the use and preservation of our state's resources. Please take the time consider what these existing provisions mean 'on the ground'. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric W. Fowle, AICP
Principal Environmental Planner

Enclosures

The Reporter

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GUEST COMMENTARY

How 'green' is wind energy and is it really 'Made in America'?

Midwest Wind Energy, LLC has proposed 33 400-foot wind turbines to be erected in the Town of Herman located along the Niagara Escarpment, six miles east of the Horicon Marsh, the largest freshwater cattail marsh in the United States.

The Horicon Marsh is noted for nesting pairs of eagles and herons and is a huge migratory stop for geese. Two miles east

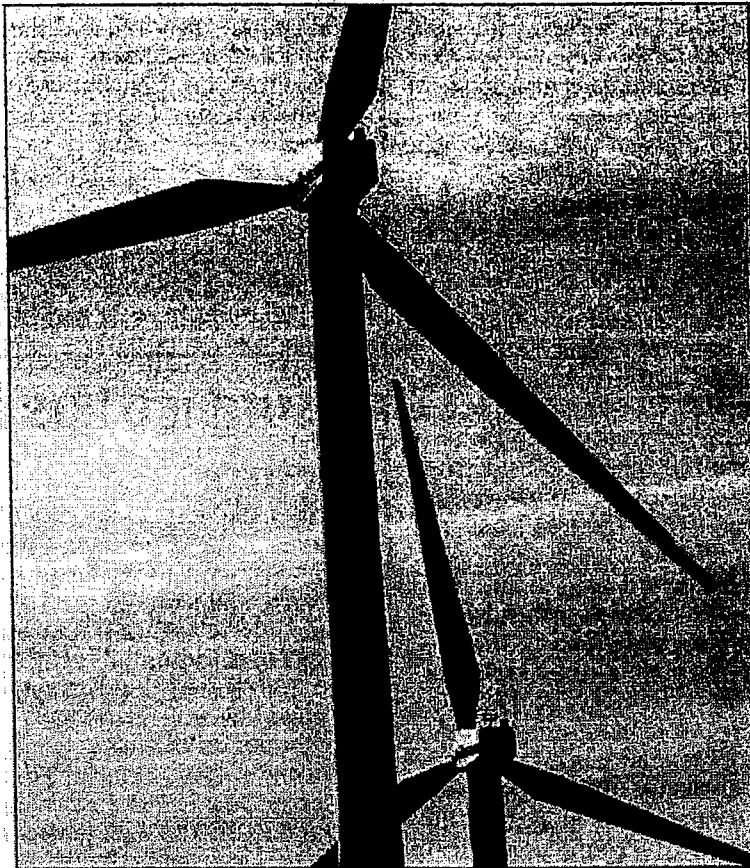
Barb Larsen

of the proposed site is the largest bat hibernaculum in

North America, the Neda Mine State Preservation Site.

A future "target" for Midwest Wind Energy, from Chicago, is close to the ledge by the Horicon Marsh, where "nine snail species which were thought to have disappeared from northeastern Wisconsin at the end of the last Ice Age have been found living on the shaded Niagara Escarpment cliffs. One species is unknown to the United States and another was thought to have gone extinct with the mastodons" (see <http://midwest.fws.gov/horicon/hisgeolgy.html>).

The turbines in Herman Township will be 400 feet high. Wisconsin is only a "2" on the Department of Energies Wind Map (<http://rredc.nrel.gov/wind/pubs/atlas/maps/c hap2/2-01m.html>) and in order



The Reporter file photo

to "catch" the wind, the first-ever 400-foot turbines will be erected.

Here are some interesting facts:

- The GE Electric 1.5 MW Tower will weigh 255 tons (510,000 pounds), including tower, blades and housing.

- One concrete pad, 50 feet by 50 feet by 40 to 50 feet deep,

will be needed to support each turbine.

- 300 Quad Axle Truck loads of dirt will be excavated from each site.

- Approximately 200 loads of concrete will be needed to fill in each base.

- A 400-foot turbine is one-fourth the height of the Sears Tower, is equal to four to five

silos high and is taller than the Statue of Liberty with the base.

- The turbine at the hub will move at 17 mph, but extrapolated out based on the diameter of the blades, these blades will be moving at 180 mph.

Can you imagine the vibration along the Niagara Escarpment that these turbines may create? Not to mention the noise, bird/raptor/bat kill, and what about our ground water?

But here is the most disturbing information yet: Eurus Energy, which is a subsidiary of TEPCO (Toyko Electric) will own and operate these wind turbines upon completion of construction.

The Production Tax Credit, a U.S. federal subsidy, uses American taxpayer dollars to fund the construction of Japanese-owned wind turbines on Wisconsin farmland. We Energies will be buying the electricity back — made on Wisconsin dairy farms — from Eurus, a Japanese Company, at a higher rate than what it costs to produce electricity from traditional sources.

So much for green, "made in America" electricity, and so much for not depending on foreign energy.

Wake up, people! We are literally "betting the farm" and our environment on this venture.

Barb Larsen is a resident of Iron Ridge.

Wind farm proposal rattles town

FPL's withdrawn plan leaves Addison facing legal bills, court appeal

By DON BEHM
of the Journal Sentinel staff

Addison — Though a Florida corporation has abandoned its plan to erect 28 wind turbines east of U.S. Highway 41, the town government still faces unresolved problems that could keep the wind farm controversy simmering, officials said.

Remaining issues include:

■ Legal bills totaling \$31,812. While the Town Board grapples with the legal bills, it must wait to see whether it will lose \$32,601 in state shared revenue payments, as proposed by Gov. Scott McCallum.

■ The prospect of a lawsuit from any of 14 property owners who had leased land to FPL Energy for the turbines. Addison, or its insurance carrier, could be forced to pay tens of thousands of dollars to each of the landowners if a court finds that the town had proposed unreasonable restrictions on the project.

■ The appeal of a judge's order removing a former town chairman and a town supervisor from office. A hearing on that dispute is not expected until later this year.

The Town Board's immediate priority is to negotiate a reduction in the \$31,812 in fees charged to the town by a Chicago law firm hired as special counsel, Town Chairman Bob Bingen said. The bill would consume nearly all of the \$35,000 the town set aside for legal expenses in 2002.

The town could lose its state shared revenue payment, which amounts to 8% of the town's \$1.1 million budget for 2002. The Legislature has yet to act on McCallum's proposals to fix the state's \$1.1 billion budget deficit.

"The tax levy was set, and the town has no other option to raise those funds for this year," Bingen said. "It will be quite an adjustment for us to figure out where that money will come from."

One possibility is to transfer funds that had been set aside for equipment purchases this year.

McAndrews, Held & Malloy Ltd. of Chicago was hired by the board last year to provide a third opinion on FPL Energy's request for a permit to construct the wind farm.

A first opinion had been provided by the town attorney, and a second review already had been requested from a Green Bay engineering company at the time that the Town Board, then controlled by project opponents, insisted on hiring the special counsel.

FPL Energy, which has been reimbursing the town for the costs of reviewing its permit application, had informed the Town

Board within a few days of hiring the McAndrews firm that it would not pay that bill. The board went ahead with the hiring, and the Chicago firm later billed the town \$31,812 for its work.

"I'm going to try and negotiate a settlement with them," Bingen said. If he is successful, then Bingen will ask the board to approve the final bill.

16 landowners had lease deals

Owners of 16 properties agreed to lease land to FPL Energy for construction of facilities if a permit had been granted. They would have been paid as much as \$10,000 per turbine per year. The Florida corporation had proposed erecting 28 turbines along a five-mile section of hills from Cedarview Road north to Beaver Dam Road.

But FPL Energy announced last week that it would abandon the project after the Town Plan Commission indicated that it would require 1,000-foot-wide safety zones around each turbine.

Such a permit condition would have cut the number of turbines in the project to seven or eight. The corporation decided that the project was too small and did not merit the costly legal battle needed to challenge the restriction, FPL Energy representatives said.

Ed Ritger, a Random Lake attorney who negotiated leases for a majority of the property owners, said that a few of them had contacted other lawyers for advice on compensation requests.

"I'm not sure that a lot of the landowners will rush off to seek compensation," Ritger said. "Many of these families have deep roots in the community. So there's a lot of loyalty among these farmers to their town government, and they have no intention to break the bank of the town."

One of them, Norbert Beina, said the Plan Commission had violated his rights as a property owner when it proposed the restriction on the project. He said he has not decided whether to seek compensation.

"We want to let this rest"

Another, Harold Seyfert, said the project was dead and that he

"The tax levy was set, and the town has no other option to raise those funds for this year. It will be quite an adjustment for us to figure out where that money will come from."

Bob Bingen,
Addison town chairman

"Many of these families have deep roots in the community. So there's a lot of loyalty among these farmers to their town government, and they have no intention to break the bank of the town."

Ed Ritger,

Random Lake attorney who negotiated leases for a majority of the property owners

had not considered a lawsuit.

"It's over with, and we want to let this rest," Seyfert said.

In an ongoing legal conflict resulting from the wind farm controversy, former Town Chairman Lisa Bzdusek and former Supervisor James Johnson are appealing their court-ordered removal from office this past November.

No hearing has been set before the state appeals court, said Raymond Pollen, a Milwaukee attorney representing Bzdusek and

Johnson. Pollen's defense costs are being paid by the town's insurance carrier because Bzdusek and Johnson held office at the time they were sued.

Supervisor Art Weis, Bingen and two other town residents last year asked Ozaukee County Circuit Judge Tom Wolfgram to bar Bzdusek and Johnson from holding office because their appointments violated state law. Bingen was not on the board at that time.

Wolfgram agreed and in a Nov. 5 ruling said that the two were appointed improperly in August because Town Clerk Ellen Wolf was not allowed to nominate citizens for the two vacancies. Bingen was appointed to replace Bzdusek as chairman on Nov. 6.

Bzdusek and Johnson were appointed after town government was crippled by two resignations and project opponents controlled the board.

Bzdusek declined to comment on her appeal or on FPL Energy's decision to withdraw its permit application. Johnson did not respond to a telephone message requesting an interview.

Now that FPL Energy has closed its office in the town, Bingen is asking residents to put aside past conflicts over the project and work together.

"This town has been beat up pretty badly in the last two years," he said. "Let's get back to the business of running a town."

His comments were echoed by Bill Clark, the only vocal opponent of the wind farm remaining on the five-member Town Board.

"Time will heal most of these differences and, hopefully, it will go away," Clark said. "I don't see this as a long-term detriment to the town."

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LOCAL NEWS

Posted Oct. 01, 2003

High emotions charge wind farm hearing

Some residents critical of process for tower sites

By Patty Brandl

the reporter pbrandl@fdlreporter.com

MOUNT CALVARY — Emotions ran high and occasional shouting punctuated the Town of Marshfield Zoning Committee hearing held Tuesday night to make recommendations on setback distances for a proposed wind farm.

The two-hour zoning meeting held in Mount Calvary drew a capacity crowd that came to make recommendations on the distances that should be required between wind towers and property lines and buildings.

If approved by the town board, the 44 wind turbines proposed by Minneapolis-based Navitas Energy Inc. could supply enough power to provide energy for 60,000 homes. Each tower would have a hub height of 250 feet and a blade tip height of 374 feet. The energy development company was one of two that signed contracts in July to provide power to WE Energy.

Revenue generated from the project would add more than \$300,000 annually to projected town and county coffers over the next 20 years, or about \$4,000 in tax relief for each installed megawatt, said Navitas Project Manager Jared Anderson. He added later that the firm has been working on signing a contract with American Transmission Co. to move the generated "green" power.

"We still do not have a transmission agreement," he said. "We need that."

At the meeting, farmers who need the money that the wind farm leases would add to their annual income sat shoulder to shoulder with residential landowners who fear lowered property values, noise and violation of the pristine views that they now enjoy.

"We ask that everyone remains calm," said Stan Schmitz, the meeting's moderator and chair of the

Recommendations

Minimum recommended setbacks according to a unanimous zoning committee decision include the following:

- 500 feet from the centerline of a public road.
- 600 feet from the property line of a participating landowner.
- 1000 feet from the property line of a non-participating landowner.
- 1000 feet from a non-participating landowner's building.

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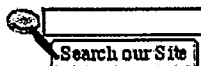


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zoning committee at the beginning of the hearing.

"We have no authority to make the rules," he reminded the crowd of about 250 landowners and neighbors more than once. "We are an advisory board. We only make recommendations to the Town Board."

The area has three things that wind energy developers look for in a site, Anderson told the crowd jammed into the fire station. "Wind, electrical infrastructure and land - all that's here," he said.

As Anderson talked and listened to residents' concerns, a serene picture of towering white turbines and a map of possible land sites circulated through an audience that filled all available chairs and lined the walls of the conference room, overflowing into the hallways of the fire station.

Fielding a barrage of questions about safety issues, liability and final location of the turbines ("we won't know where they'll be until the middle of October"), Anderson spent the better part of two hours providing information to a crowd that demanded answers.

One of the biggest complaints from audience members was that contracts for land leases had already been signed while the majority of town residents had been unaware that the project had even been proposed.

Landowners were invited to the initial meeting in July, but non-participating neighbors were not.

"It seems that it was all done very secretively. If you're proud of what you're doing, why all the secrecy?" asked Mike Muckerheide, as the room erupted into clapping and cheers of agreement.

Cindy and Doug Decker, owners of the land occupied by two turbines already in operation along Highway 41 south of Fond du Lac, said they have found the towers to be unobtrusive.

"We invite all of you to our open house this weekend," she said, and added that they wanted to demonstrate to Marshfield residents how little noise and negative side effects the turbines actually produce.

Anderson assured the audience that Navitas would be working hand-in-hand with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to estimate the impact of the project on endangered species in the area; that the neighbors wouldn't hear any disturbing noise from the windmills; that a six-year government study has shown that property values rose in all 10 state wind farm sites.

"I think this is good for the town," said Town Board Supervisor Ken Kraus.

"Farmers are harvesting the wind, so it should be considered a cash crop," said John Pickart.

done with: There's nothing further

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"She withdrew from activities, she was subjected to very unflat-

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Wind power project meets resistance

Stockbridge area residents displeased at informational meeting with Madison Gas & Electric

By Greg Bump
For The Reporter

KLOTEN — Madison Gas and Electric held an informational meeting Thursday night aimed at alleviating concerns surrounding a proposed wind power facility near Stockbridge.

However, utility officials again heard opposition from residents.

The plans call for 17 towers to be placed on several miles of farm fields that overlook Lake Winnebago from the Niagara Escarpment, a large limestone ledge that is a unique geological feature to the area.

Greg Bollom, assistant vice president of electric marketing at Madison Gas, said the utility filed for permits to get certificate of authority with the state Public Service Commission. A decision is expected from the commission by the end of August or early September, and the utility would start pouring foundations in September and begin placing turbines in January. The facility could be operational by April.

Bill Fannucchi, an environmental planning analyst with the electric division of the Public Service Commission, said the commission is reviewing the Madison Gas application and compiling a detailed environmental assessment of the project.

The goal of the meeting was to answer questions residents have and to identify other issues that may affect the program, but not all who attended left satisfied.

"I think they blew by a lot of questions," said Joel Portmann, who lives in the center of the proposed wind farm site and has been an outspoken critic of the project from the outset.

"The people in this area, about 85 to 90 percent of the landowners, have signed an agreement with each other not to lease or sell their land to MGE or anybody else for three years," he said.

Portmann said the project has been forced on the residents, who were notified of the plans in April. He is also concerned with the project's impact on the scenery and tourism of the area, as well as on wildlife.

Bollom said the project is on a fast track to take advantage of federal tax incentives offered to utilities investing in renewable resource technology.

"From the available information, this is the best site in the state for this project," Bollom said. "Our interest in the project is we have customers that are interested in purchasing renewable energy."

"Can't we just vote no, and it will be over with? If we all vote no, will you leave us alone?" asked one resident, who didn't want to be identified.

"We have said from the beginning that if as a landowner you are not interested in having turbines on your land, we'll stop talking to you," Bollom said.

"But your neighbor's land is OK?" asked Ron Holt, an area resident who said his land neighbors a proposed wind turbine site.

"One of the problems we face is we never hear people say, 'Put that power line in my back yard,'" Fannucchi said. "But people always want as much power as they want when they want it."

Fannucchi said the reaction of the landowners could go a long way in determining the Public Service Commission board's vote on the project.

Karen Conover, president of Global Energy Concepts Inc., a Seattle-based energy engineering consulting firm, and president of the American Wind Energy Association, said wind power is a growing industry.

Currently, 7,500 megawatts of energy are generated through wind, but the association expects that to expand to more than 42,000 megawatts globally in the next 10 years.

Conover tried to allay residents' fears of a potential proliferation of wind turbines in the area, saying there is not a tremendous amount of potential expansion of wind turbine sites along the Niagara Escarpment because of a steep drop-off in elevation.

Madison Gas and Electric identified 32 potential sites in the area, according to Bollom. Of those, 10 to 15 have been eliminated and no sites have been contracted yet.

The wind turbines installed would likely be three-bladed and would reach 275 feet in height. They would generate approximately 600 kilowatts each, totaling 11.6 megawatts for the entire 17-turbine project.

Conover said the wind turbines are compatible with a number of other land uses, such as grazing livestock and crop cultivation. They have no impact on water or air quality and they take up less than 5 percent of land per site.

Greg Bump writes for Thomson Wisconsin Newspapers/The Post-Crescent of Appleton.

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With the announcement of a unanimous proposal on the setback distances that would be workable for the town, some seemed resigned to the zoning recommendation.

"I live here," said Joe Rappl, one of a group of concerned neighbors who want a one-year moratorium on the project to allow more time for impact studies. "I have to support the decision of the town board," he said.

Others, like Marty Scribner, were unhappy about the way the project has been handled from the start.

"I think our rights as Americans have been abused," he said. "This has been pushed on us, and the big bucks won out. I'm not against this, but we should have had the right to know about it before the contracts were signed."

Approached for a statement following the meeting, Town Board Chair Earl Steffen declined to comment.

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Watertown, WI



News

Wind farm is at center of recall attempt

By Diane Graff of the Daily Times staff

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Citizens from the town of Herman began circulating a recall petition Tuesday night for its town chairman and two supervisors.

A group calling itself "Save Our Community" filed a statement of intent to file a recall petition with town Clerk Stephanie Justmann late Tuesday afternoon. According to the statement, the group is seeking a recall of town board Chairman Elroy Mittelstadt, Supervisor Ronald Schellinger and Supervisor Roger Schmitt. They have been in violation of the duties and responsibilities to the citizens of Herman, the document states.

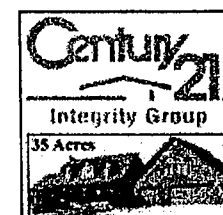
"The town board is failing to do their duty," according to Arthur Unger, the person who signed the recall statement. "It is in connection with informing the town people about the wind farms as they call them," Unger said. The town board is refusing to answer questions about the wind turbines, not farms, Unger said.

"It is very confusing as to what is being proposed," Unger, who has been a town resident since 1976, said.

We Energies, through a contract with Midwest Wind Energy, has proposed to build a wind farm consisting of 33 wind turbines within a six-mile radius of Rock Road and County Trunk P in the town of Herman. But according to Unger, the Midwest Wind Energy Web site lists up to 50 turbines to be located on the property and the firm may be looking at up to 200 turbines in the county.

"The town board, when asked questions, will not respond," Unger said. Residents attend the town board meetings but cannot speak, but Midwest Energy representatives are allowed to address the board, he said. "We go to public hearings and ask questions and they don't answer, but if Midwest Energy asks questions, they answer."

The town board approved amending a section of its zoning ordinance regarding agricultural district as a permitted use instead of a conditional use format. The three-member town board approved the change on March 2 following a public hearing with 200 residents in attendance.



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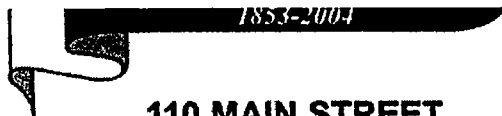
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The town of Herman is currently waiting for the Dodge County Board of Supervisors to approve an amendment to its zoning ordinance that would allow for construction of a wind farm as a permitted use in conjunction with a licensing agreement.

In the town of Herman, only industrial zoning addresses electric generation of power, Unger said. "So what the town has tried to do is make it a permitted use in an industrial zoned district. Part of that was isolated from the rest of the zoning ordinance because of the height restrictions, setbacks and noise levels. Now the licensing agreement is in the hands of the county," Unger said.

Unger claimed the county has authority on the zoning but not on the licensing agreement. "A municipal ordinance is separate from zoning," he said.

Dodge County Corporation Counsel John Corey addressed members of the county's planning and development committee earlier this week to list their options on the request. "Basically, I raised some issues for them (committee members) to think about," Corey said. "One is if there is authority for a town to enact a licensing ordinance on this topic," he said.

"On one side, the town has said under general police powers, the town can do it," Corey said. The counter argument is if it is a licensing ordinance or a zoning issue, he added. "The licensing ordinance takes regulations out of the zoning ordinance," he added.

If it is determined that the licensing ordinance is not legally enforceable, then the wind energy systems would be a permitted use and there are no zoning standards associated with that use, Corey said. A licensing ordinance makes a public hearing optional and limits citizens' input, he added.

A public hearing has been set by the county for 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 11, in the administration building in Juneau.

Members of the recall drive have until 5 p.m. May 27 to file the petitions. Based on the number of voters in the last presidential election, 155 signatures will be required on the petition.

Town board positions are two-year terms and expire in April of 2005.